



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Chief Executive Officer

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March 29, 2013

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum provides information on the following:

- **Pursuit of County Position to Support AB 831 (Bloom).** This measure would require the California Health and Human Services Agency to establish a workgroup to develop a plan to reduce the rate of fatal drug overdoses, and appropriate \$500,000 to fund grants to local agencies for programs related to drug overdose prevention, recognition and response in FY 2014-15. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to increase funding for drug prevention, treatment and recovery services, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 831.**
- **Pursuit of County Position to Support SB 402 (De Leon).** This measure would require all general acute care and special hospitals that have a perinatal unit to adopt the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding by January 1, 2020. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals which establish, enhance, or fund public awareness campaigns that encourage breastfeeding, **the Sacramento Advocates will support SB 402.**

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 831 (Bloom), which as amended on March 18, 2013, would: 1) require the California Health and Human Services Agency to establish a temporary workgroup to develop a plan to reduce the rate of fatal drug overdoses in the State and to make recommendations to the Chair of the Senate and Assembly Committee on Health, on or before January 1, 2015; and 2) appropriate \$500,000 from the State General Fund in FY 2014-15 to fund grants to local agencies for programs related to drug overdose prevention, recognition and response.

According to the Department of Public Health (DPH), the County's coroner-based surveillance system indicates that drug overdose is the third leading cause of injury death and premature death. Between 2008 and 2009, there were over 8,000 drug-related deaths, and most of these deaths were unintentional. Furthermore, approximately 61 percent of those deaths involved a commonly abused prescription or over-the-counter drug, with opiate pain relievers as the most commonly detected substance. DPH indicates that the grants established under AB 831 would not directly impact which services would be funded by the Department's Substance Abuse Prevention Control section. However, the measure could provide guidance on additional overdose prevention efforts that the County could develop or enhance to reduce and prevent unintentional drug-related deaths.

This office and the Department of Public Health support AB 831. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to increase funding for drug prevention, treatment and recovery services, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 831.**

AB 831 is sponsored by the Drug Policy Alliance. There is no registered support or opposition on file. This measure is scheduled for a hearing in the Assembly Health Committee on April 9, 2013.

SB 402 (De Leon), which as introduced on February 20, 2013, would require all general acute care and special hospitals that have a perinatal unit to adopt the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding by January 1, 2020.

Existing law requires all general acute care and special hospitals that have a perinatal unit to implement an infant feeding policy to promote breastfeeding effective January 1, 2014.

SB 402 would require all perinatal hospitals in California to implement the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, or an equivalent process recognized by the California

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Department of Public Health by January 1, 2020, based on protocols adopted by Baby Friendly, USA.

As reported by Baby Friendly, USA, there is an abundance of scientific evidence that points to lower risks of certain diseases and improved health for both mothers and babies who breastfeed. The Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding were developed by a team of global experts and consists of evidence-based practices that have been shown to increase breastfeeding initiation and duration.

According to the Departments of Public Health and Health Services (DHS), early infant nutrition contributes to numerous positive health outcomes. Breastfeeding is the most complete form of infant nutrition. Breast milk contains crucial antibacterial, antiviral, and antiallergenic factors that naturally boost a baby's immune system after birth. Studies have shown that infants who are breastfed exclusively are at decreased risk for ear infections, respiratory infections, diarrhea, bacterial infections, allergies, asthma, and childhood obesity than infants who are formula fed. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the World Health Organization recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life. DHS further states that three of its hospitals have adopted Baby Friendly hospital practices which can improve a mother's understanding of the positive benefits associated with breastfeeding their babies.

This office and the Departments of Public Health and Health Services support SB 402. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals which establish, enhance, or fund public awareness campaigns that encourage breastfeeding, **the Sacramento Advocates will support SB 402.**

SB 402 is sponsored by the California Women, Infants and Children Association, and supported by a variety of organizations including: the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists-CA Chapter; American Academy of Pediatrics - CA Chapter; California Nurses Association; and a number of local First Five Commissions and WIC agencies. The measure is opposed by the California Hospital Association.

This measure is scheduled for hearing in the Senate Health Committee on April 3, 2013.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:VE:ma

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist